

MORNING WORSHIP

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

PRELUDE

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright	<i>Johann Pachelbel</i>
We Three Kings	<i>Johannes Matthias Michel</i>
We Praise Thy Bright Beam	<i>Sigfrid Karg-Elert</i>
From a Distant Home	<i>Puerto Rican carol</i> <i>arr. Michael Burkhardt</i>
Star of Hope	<i>Richard Keys Biggs</i>

INTROIT

“Through Love to Light!” *Jean Sibelius*

Through love to light! O wonderful the way that leads from
darkness to the perfect day; from darkness and from sorrow
of the night to morning that comes singing o’er the sea!
Through love to light! Through light, O God, to thee,
who art the love of love, the eternal light of light!

***DOXOLOGY AND INVOCATION** (The Hymnal, 592)

***HYMN 66** “We Three Kings of Orient Are” *Tune: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**God of all creation, each new year,
and even each new day,
reminds us of new life and new chances.
But we are stuck in the day or the year that is over.
We carry guilt about things we cannot forget;
we hold grudges;
we refuse to apologize for misdeeds;
and we carry our sins with us,
even though you want us to confess our sins
and leave them behind.
Forgive us, Lord.
Help us forgive others and ourselves.
Help us to seek reconciliation and
to correct past wrongs where we can.
Help us to see and embrace the new day
and year that is before us.
We ask all this in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PSALTER Psalm 147:1–11 (page 549, O.T.)

ANTHEM “The Morning Star” *American folk hymn*
arr. Virgil Thomson

How splendid shines the morning star, God’s gracious light from
darkness far, the root of Jesse’s blessed. Thou, David’s son of
Jacob’s stem, my bridegroom, king, and wondrous lamb, thou hast
my heart possessed. Sweetly, friendly, O thou handsome precious
ransom, full of graces, set and kept in heavenly places.

FIRST LESSON Matthew 2:1–12 (page 1, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***GLORIA PATRI** (The Hymnal, 579)

SECOND LESSON John 1:1–18 (page 86, N.T.)

SERMON ADAM H. FRONCZEK

***HYMN 53** “What Child Is This” *Tune: GREENSLEEVES*

***APOSTLES’ CREED** (*unison*)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Amen"

Edward Margetson

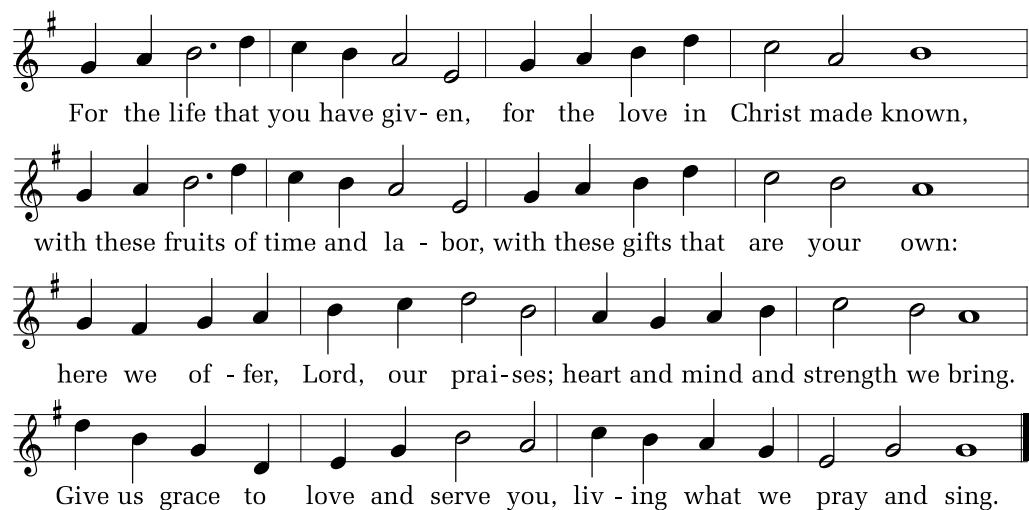
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Epiphany Alleluias"

John Weaver

Alleluia. We have seen his star in the east and are come to
worship him. Alleluia. Arise, shine, for thy light is come and
the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE



For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai-ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr. ©1987; Music: Morgan Simmons ©1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All: **Gracious God,**

**as in ancient times the magi came offering their gifts,
so we offer our gifts to you.**

We hope that we have given you our best.

Bless our offerings,

our time and our money and ourselves,

that they may mean new life, new chances,

and restored hope in places where there is need.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,

who was born into the world

so that we might have new life. Amen.

***HYMN 483**

“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART

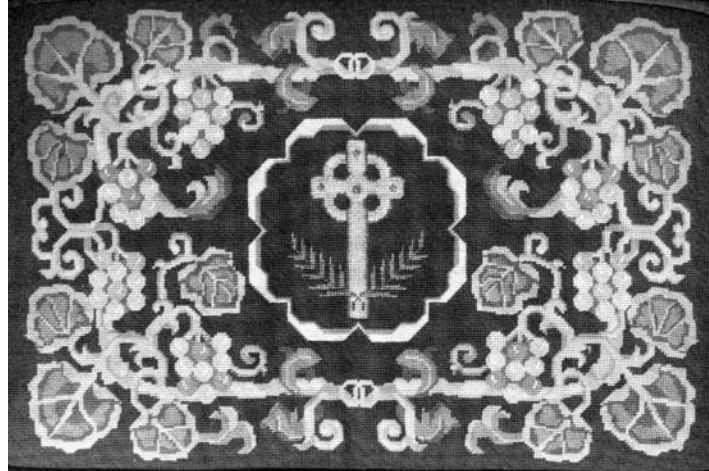
BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

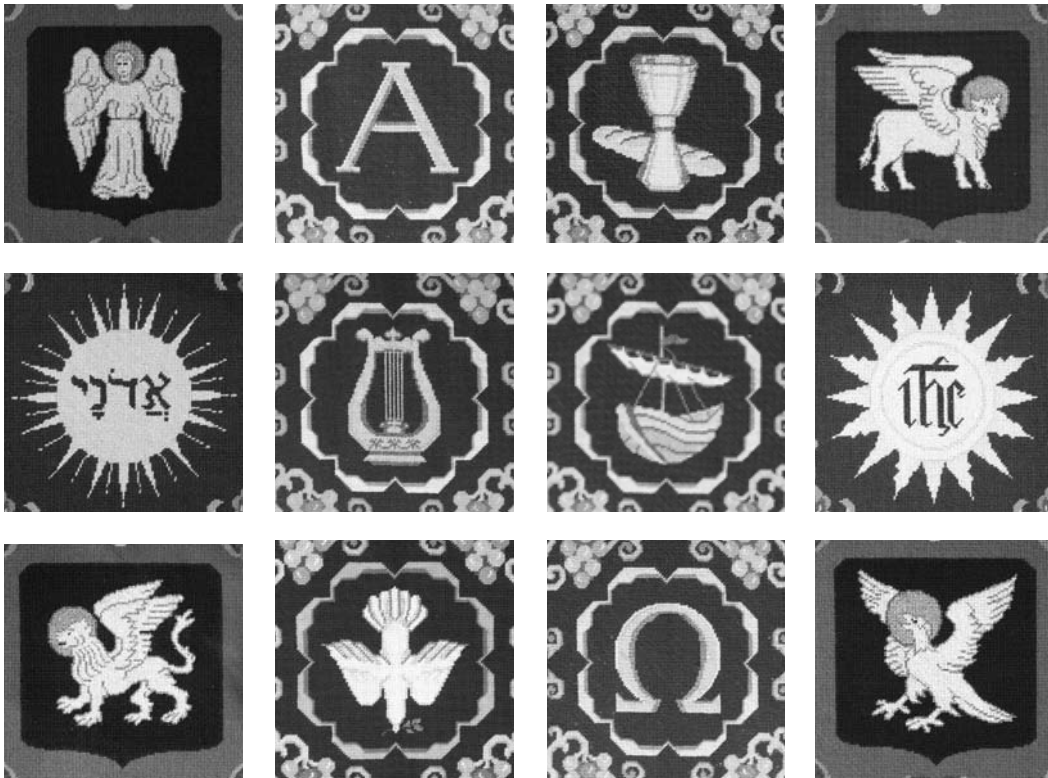
In Thee Is Joy

J. M. Michel

IN THE DETAILS



The needlepoint cushions in the chancel, faux carving, panels of wheat and grapes, and the gold cross, are the handiwork of Morgan Simmons, a member of this congregation and, from 1968 to 1996, organist and choirmaster of Fourth Church. The combined number of stitches for these works approaches 2 million, 169 per square inch. Central to each of the upper and lower chancel cushions is a religious symbol (shown here), surrounded by clusters of grapes, which echo the motif found in many of the chancel and pulpit carvings and in the stained glass windows.



WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Donna Gray, John W. Vest, Adam H. Fronczek

11:00 a.m. Donna Gray, John W. Vest, Adam H. Fronczek

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Morning Choir

11:00 a.m. The Morning Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

WORSHIP NOTES

The “Light Up a Life” offering is being received throughout the Christmas season.

This annual giving campaign supports congregational programs; mission and community outreach, including Chicago Lights programs; and denominational programs. “Light Up a Life” gifts can be made using the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks or by writing “Light Up a Life” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

The Fourth Church website, www.fourthchurch.org, makes available Sunday morning 11:00 a.m. sermons in text and various audio formats. Also posted on the website is the text of all worship bulletins and “News and Opportunities” as well as information about upcoming worship services.

Fourth Church offers a variety of worship opportunities in addition to Sunday morning services. An afternoon Communion service is held each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Each weekday morning, Morning Prayer is held in Stone Chapel as a time to remember in prayer members of the Fourth Church congregation and those in need (9:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday). A Taizé service is held at 7:30 p.m. in Blair Chapel on the fourth Friday of each month.

PASTORAL STAFF

John M. Buchanan, Pastor

Calum I. MacLeod, Executive Associate Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss, Associate Pastor for Mission

Adam H. Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship

Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families

Sarah A. Johnson, Minister for Congregational Care

Linda C. Loving, Minister for Evangelism

Joyce Shin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life

John W. Vest, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

John H. Boyle, Parish Associate

Thomas C. Rook, Parish Associate

Kerri N. Allen, Pastoral Resident

Matthew J. Helms, Pastoral Resident

David A. Donovan, Associate Pastor Emeritus

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